

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A dietary supplement comprising:

- an immunomodulating component ~~which is selected from the group consisting of β -casomorphin-9 β -casomorphin-9 and β -casein A2, and mixture thereof, or an analogue or precursor thereof capable of releasing β -casomorphin-9 but substantially no β -casomorphin-7 during digestion in the gut of a mammal; and~~

- a fortifying component which is an effective amount of at least one compound capable, when consumed, of reducing plasma levels of homocyst(e)ine (tHcy) in a mammal, said compound being selected from the group comprising betaine, cobalamin, folic acid, pyridoxine, and ~~pharamaceutically~~ pharmaceutically acceptable analogues thereof.

29. (currently amended) [[A]] The dietary supplement as claimed in claim 28, ~~where~~ wherein the immunomodulating component is derived from bovine milk.

30. (currently amended) [[A]] The dietary supplement as claimed in claim 29, ~~where~~ wherein the milk has a β -casein content which substantially excludes β -casein A1 and β -casein B.

31. (currently amended) [[A]] The dietary supplement as claimed in claim 30, ~~where~~ wherein the β -casein content of the milk is substantially comprised of β -casein A2.

32. (previously presented) A method for reducing the incidence in a population of at least one of the group comprising (a) type I diabetes, (b) type II diabetes, (c) cardiovascular disease, (d) cerebrovascular disease, (e) peripheral vascular disease, (f) neural tube defects, and (g) degeneration of blood vessel walls, comprising supplying to the population a dietary supplement as claimed in claim 28.

33-36. (canceled)

37. (new) The dietary supplement according to claim 28, wherein the fortifying component is folic acid.

38. (new) The dietary supplement according to claim 28, wherein the fortifying component is cobalamin.

39. (new) The dietary supplement according to claim 28, wherein the fortifying component is pyridoxine.

40. (new) The dietary supplement according to claim 28, wherein the fortifying component is betaine.

41. (new) A method for treating a subject in a population to reduce the risk of a disorder selected from the group consisting of a) type I diabetes, b) type II diabetes, c) cardiovascular disease, d) cerebrovascular disease, e) peripheral vascular disease, f) neural tube defects, and

degeneration of blood vessel walls from occurring in said subject, comprising administering an effective amount of the supplement according to claim 28 to said subject.

42. (new) A method for treating a subject in a population to reduce the risk of a disorder selected from the group consisting of a) type I diabetes, b) type II diabetes, c) cardiovascular disease, d) cerebrovascular disease, e) peripheral vascular disease, f) neural tube defects, and degeneration of blood vessel walls from occurring in said subject, comprising administering an effective amount of the supplement according to claim 37 to said subject.

43. (new) A method for treating a subject in a population to reduce the risk of a disorder selected from the group consisting of a) type I diabetes, b) type II diabetes, c) cardiovascular disease, d) cerebrovascular disease, e) peripheral vascular disease, f) neural tube defects, and degeneration of blood vessel walls from occurring in said subject, comprising administering an effective amount of the supplement according to claim 38 to said subject.

44. (new) A method for treating a subject in a population to reduce the risk of a disorder selected from the

group consisting of a) type I diabetes, b) type II diabetes, c) cardiovascular disease, d) cerebrovascular disease, e) peripheral vascular disease, f) neural tube defects, and degeneration of blood vessel walls from occurring in said subject, comprising administering an effective amount of the supplement according to claim 39 to said subject.

45. (new) A method for treating a subject in a population to reduce the risk of a disorder selected from the group consisting of a) type I diabetes, b) type II diabetes, c) cardiovascular disease, d) cerebrovascular disease, e) peripheral vascular disease, f) neural tube defects, and degeneration of blood vessel walls from occurring in said subject, comprising administering an effective amount of the supplement according to claim 40 to said subject.